

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 00729 061748Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P R 061719Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 729

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 729

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, PO

SUBJ: REPORT ON SOVIET FISHING FACILITIES IN PORTUGAL

REF: (A) MOSCOW 1590; (B) LISBON 593; (C) LISBON 694

1. EMBASSY HAS CONFIRMED THAT MANUEL CURTO (REFTEL A), THIRD SECRETARY IN PORTUGUESE MOSCOW EMBASSY, WAS IN LISBON LAST WEEK. CURTO IS BROTHER OF PROMINENT SOCIALIST PARTY LABOR LEADER MANUEL CURTO.

2. FONOFF DIRGEN FOR ECON AFFAIRS PEQUITO TOLD ECONCONUS ON FEB. 5 THAT SECSTATE FOR FISHERIES RUIVO IS A LONG-TIME FRIEND OF SOVIET FISHERIES MINISTER AS RESULT OF ASSOCIATION IN FAO, WHERE RUIVO WORKED FOR MANY YEARS. AT RECENT FAO FISHERIES MEETING IN ROME, RUIVO LEARNED ISHKOV WAS GOING TO PERU AND MIGHT BE TRANSITING PORTUGAL ON HIS WAY HOME. RUIVO INFORMALLY INVITED HIM TO MAKE A STOP HERE.

3. GIVEN THE UPROAR IN THE NEWSPAPERS ABOUT SOVIET FISHING VESSELS (AND FACT THAT RUIVO OCCUPIED WITH NORWEGIAN DELEGATION), GOP DECIDED TO ASK ISHKOV TO COME ANOTHER TIME. AS OF LATE FEB. 5, PEQUITO WAS NOT CERTAIN WHETHER GOP HAD BEEN ABLE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH ISHKOV BEFORE HE DEPARTED PERU, IN WHICH EVENT THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT HE MIGHT STILL LAND HERE.

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4. PEQUITO DID INDICATE THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME DISCUSSION

ABOUT ALLOWING RUSSIAN TRAWLERS INTO PORTUGUESE PORTS FOR UP-KEEP OPERATIONS--AN ARRANGEMENT, HE SAID, SIMILAR TO ONE THE USSR HAS WITH SPAIN IN THE CANARIES. IN ANY EVENT, PEQUITO STRESSED THAT GOP HAS MADE NO COMMITMENTS ON THIS SCORE TO THE SOVIETS AND WOULD NOT DO SO WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH ITS NATO ALLIES.

5. COMMENT: CURTO'S PRESENCE HERE AND PEQUITO'S CONFIRMATION OF MOST ELEMENTS OF GIBSON'S VERSION (REFTEL C) TEND TO CONFIRM THAT CUNHA REGO STORY HAS NOT FABRICATION, BUT WAS BASED ON CORE OF FACTS, WHICH APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN EXAGGERATED FOR SOCIALISTS' POLITICAL ENDS.  
CARLUCCI

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